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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode No. 81

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SEPTEMBER 28, 1933 THURSDAY

ORCHESTRA:

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers ---

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET

ANNOUNCER: Nearly one hundred and fifty great National Forests, scattered through thirty states, north, south, east, and west, are dedicated to the use and enjoyment of the people of the United States. With their many beautiful lakes, turbulent rivers, mountain peaks and meadows, vast open cattle and sheep ranges, big timber, and young growing forests, they offer the finest opportunities for outdoor recreation, and they serve at the same time as a vast reservoir of useful resources, managed by Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers in the public interest.

Each week at this time, we have a look-in on the Pine Cone National Forest District, where Ranger Jim Robbins and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, are in charge. As you remember, the Pine Cone Ranger Station early last summer had a clerk detailed from the Supervisor's office to help out for a few weeks. When the new clerk turned out to be an attractive young lady, Miss Ruth Lander, Jerry suddenly became very much interested in the office work. And this summer it looked like Jerry was beginning to be very much interested in Miss Lander.

No doubt the village school teacher, Mary Halloway, whom Jerry had been rather sweet on for some time, felt she had plenty of cause to be displeased. --- Well, now -- up in the Pine Cone Ranger Station, we find Jerry talking with Ruth Lander on the phone, right at this moment. Here we are. --

JERRY: (TALKING ON PHONE) How's it going, Ruth? --- Good. -- so do I, Ruth. It sure was nice having you here. ---

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (COMING IN) Morning, Jerry. What's going on?

JERRY: Hello, Jim. -- (TO PHONE) 'Scuse me a minute, will you? -- (TO JIM) Uh -- I was just calling the Supervisor's office.

JIM: I see. (CHUCKLES)

JERRY: (TO PHONE) Hello -- hello - uh -- say, we're almost out of weather report forms -- can you have a supply sent up? -- Ueah -- Well - uh -- yeah -- goodbye.

(HANGS UP PHONE)

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Important business, eh?

JERRY: Well, - uh - not exactly. -- (LAUGHS EMBARRASSEDLY) I guess you caught me at it that time Jim. -- Say, Jim -- I was just thinking - couldn't we get Ruth Lander up here again for a couple of weeks? Things are kinda piling up, you know, and we could use some extra help here in the office right now.

JIM: Yep, we could, all right. I guess we'd have enough work to keep her busy, all right, but the Supervisor tells me things are piled up pretty heavy down there too, and I reckon he needs here there at headquarters.

JERRY: Yeah, I guess that's right. -- I sure wish she was here to help me fix up this Fish and Game Report, though.

JIM: Fish and Game, eh? Is that what you're working on now?

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: (chuckles) Well, you might start 'er off like this:
"This report is prepared under the direction of Assistant Ranger Jerry Quick, who has qualified as an expert on Fish and Game by three unsuccessful attempts to land the big rainbow under the shelving rock in Winding Creek -- "

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Never mind now -- I'll catch that big boy yet. -- You ought to see the way he comes up and swishes his tail at you.

JIM: Better hurry up. I might go up there one of these early mornings and show you how to land him. Well, how about this wild animal census? -- Let's see --
980 deer, 279 elk, 1140 beaver, 400 coyotes, 7
mountain lion, 16 bobcats, 4 lynx, 30 bear ---

BESS: (COMING UP) My land - what's all this about lions and bears?

JIM: That's our game census, Bess.

BESS: Did you actually count all those animals?

JIM: Well, as best we could, Bess. Of course we can't round 'em all up and count noses, but we can keep our eyes open and make pretty close estimates. And we do some actual counting. Last winter when the snow got deep, Jerry and I rode the winter game ranges and counted deer and elk, you know. You remember we put up some feed racks on our winter game range, and the snow was so deep last winter that all the deer and elk in the district were pretty close to these racks, so we got a pretty close tally on 'em.

BESS: Yes, I know, bug how do you count the beaver and mountains lions and all?

JIM: Well, it's not a hard matter to count the beaver houses on our district. Of course some of 'em are old and deserted, because the beaver use up the aspen and willow and water plants and then move on to a fresh food supply - but you can always tell when a house is inhabited by the fresh willows and sections of aspen trees sunk on the bottom of the beaver dam near the house. We figure three beaver as an average for each inhabited house.

JERRY: Yeah. And we have three hundred and eighty beaver homes on our district.

BESS: I see.

JIM: I see.

JII: As for coyotes - when fur is high and every nester around here is out after 'em, we figure that not over half the number on the District are killed -- because coyotes are more cunning than a fox, and harder to trap. Anyhow, during a normal season, about two hundred coyotes will be taken in our district - that is, shot, trapped, and poisoned. -- But it's a tough matter to keep 'em down, since each surviving female raises from five to eight pups each year.

JERRY: Yes, and Steve Waters catches about three or four mountain lions with his pack of hounds every winter, and these, along with what we know are up in the north end of the District where he doesn't hunt, gives us a pretty good idea of the number of lions. --- They live mostly on deer, you know, so we don't want to let 'em get too numerous.

JIM: Yep. --- Well, I reckon I'll have to go up on the range this afternoon and look after some grazing matters. (CHUCKLES) S'pose you're hankerin' to stay here in the office, huh, Jerry?

JERRY: I should say not! But I s'pose I oughta stay here and get this report finished up.

JII: (CHUCKLING) I s'pect so.

BESS: Oh, Jerry - wait a minute - I haven't told you what I came in to tell you about.

JERRY: What is that, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: Jerry, did you know that Mary Halloway was leaving?

JERRY: Mary? - Leaving?

BESS: Yes. I just saw her a little while ago, and she said she was leaving Winding Creek for good.

JERRY: Going away? - Gosh! When?

BESS: Today, she said - on the noon train.

JERRY: Gee! She never told me! Ain't she even going to say goodbye?!

BESS: She acted very strange when I saw her --

JERRY: Going away without even saying goodbye! Shucks, that's no way to act. (GOING OFF) I'm going over and see her right now!

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF KNOCKING ON DOOR. DOOR OPENS)

MARY: Yes? -- (CHILLY) Oh, how do you do?

JERRY: Say, listen, Mary - what's this about your going away?

MARY: (COLD) I'm leaving Winding Creek.

JERRY: Honest? Mrs. Robbins said you were leaving today.

MARY: Yes, -- on the noon train.

JERRY: What for, Mary - gosh, why didn't you let a fellow know?

MARY: I didn't think you'd be especially concerned.

JERRY: Of course I'm concerned. -- Listen, Mary, I know you're kinda sore - about Ruth Lander being here at the Station that time, and everything -- but that's no way to do -- and anyway --

MARY: (SARCASTIC) I suppose you and Miss Lander will be heartbroken.

JERRY: Aw, Mary, be reasonable. You told me once that you wanted to stay here always.

MARY: I've changed my mind.

JERRY: I know the schoolboard wants you to stay on teaching here. They all say they wouldn't let you go for the world.

MARY: I've changed my mind, Mr. Quick.

JERRY: Say --- weren't you even going to tell me goodbye? --- Aw listen, Mary, - I - I know things aren't - uh - the same as they used to be, - exactly - but I hate to have you go away sore at me, and everything.

MARY: I've decided not to stay, as I said before. -- And you'll have to excuse me now, Mr. Quick. I have a great deal to do, if I catch that noon train.

JERRY: (HUFFY) All right. Goodbye, then - (GOING OFF) - if that's the way you feel about it.

MARY: (COLD) Goodbye. --- (SOFTLY, CHOKING SOB) Goodbye, Jerry -- (SOBS)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF TYPEWRITER)

(DOOR SLAMS)

RUTH: (COMING IN) Hello, Jerry. --- Are you surprised?

JERRY: Huh? Why Ruth - how did you get up here?

RUTH: Oh, I had a chance to ride up here today from Willow Glen, so I got leave and came up. I thought I'd surprise you.

JERRY: Oh, I see.

RUTH: What's the matter, Jerry? Aren't you glad to see me?

JERRY: Nothin's the matter. Sure, I'm glad to see you.

RUTH: (CHATTERING) Oh, I don't see how anyone could ever be sad up here - it's so lovely - I just feel like singing all the time. Just look at the view out of our window there. It's just like a picture - all the pretty trees and the high mountains in the distance. -- Oh, I enjoy it so much up here. It's a pleasure to work in a place like this. Don't you think so, Jerry?

JERRY: (GRUMPY) Yeah.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

RUTH: Oh here's Mr. Robbins!

JIM: (COMING UP) Well, howdy, Miss Lander.

RUTH: I thought I'd surprise you all, Mr. Robbins. I love to come up here to the Pine Cone Station every chance I get.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, we're glad to see you, Miss.

RUTH: Oh, thank you, Mr. Robbins. -- It looks just the same here as it did when I was here before, doesn't it?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) I s'pect so. Jerry here is working on a report today, too. I s'pect that seems natural.

RUTH: Oh, I should say! Maybe I can help him on it this afternoon. Can't I, Jerry?

JERRY: (LUKEWARM) Yeah, I guess so.

RUTH: Why, Jerry, -- you don't seem a bit enthusiastic!

JERRY: Yeah. Sure I am, Ruth. -- I -- uh --

JIM: Well, it's getting near time to put on the feed bags now. I reckon we'd better look into that first.

RUTH: Oh, but Mr. Robbins ---

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Sure -- you're just in time. -- I'm sorry but I reckon I'm going to have to high tail it up on the range soon as we finish eating, but I guess you and Jerry'll get along all right this afternoon.

RUTH: Oh, of course we shall.

JIM: (GOING OFF) I'll tell Bess you're here, and maybe she'll hurry the grub along a little.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

RUTH: Oh, Jerry, won't it be fun -- working together again, like we used to?!

JERRY: Huh? -- Yeah, I guess so.

RUTH: Why, Jerry! What's the matter -- don't you want me to stay here with you?

JERRY: Yeah -- sure -- but -- What time is it?

RUTH: Oh, almost noon, I guess.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

BESS: (COMING UP) Why Ruth! This is a surprise!

RUTH: Hello, Mrs. Robbins. I'm awfully glad to see you.

BESS: I'm glad to see you, Ruth. --- You're just in time, too. Lunch is all ready right now.

RUTH: Oh, Mrs. Robbins -- !

JERRY: (ABRUPTLY) Say -- excuse me, Mrs. Robbins -- I'll be back later --

BESS: Why, Jerry, where are you going? Lunch is all ready.

JERRY: I know but -- (GOING OFF) I gotta catch that train -- I gotta get there before it gets away!

(DOOR SLAMS)

BESS: Well, what on earth! --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(BABEL OF VOICES, OFF. SOUND OF LOCOMOTIVE BLOWING OFF STEAM)

VOICE: (OFF) All aboard - all aboard.

JERRY: (COMING UP, BREATHLESS) Hey, Mary! -- Wait - Mary!

MARY: (SURPRISED) Why - what's --- ?

JERRY: Listen, Mary - please don't go!

MARY: (ANGRY) I told you I was leaving, Mr. Quick. Goodbye.

JERRY: I know, but - listen, Mary -

MARY: (ANGRY) Let go my arm! You'll make me miss the train!

JERRY: I don't want you to go, Mary -- honest --

VOICE: (OFF) All aboard!

(SOUND OF LOCOMOTIVE BELL, AND TRAIN MOVING OFF, THROUGH FOLLOWING)

MARY: (ANGRY) Can't you see the train's already started?!

Let go, I say! It's moving!

JERRY: Mary - please -- !!

MARY: (ANGRY) See there! You've made me miss the train!

JERRY: Gee! -- Yeah -- I -- I guess I made you miss it, all right. -- I didn't want you to go though -- Mary --

MARY: (MELTING) Didn't you?

JERRY: No -- I -- I just realized that - gee, Mary --- I don't know where I've been all this time -- I - I just realized all of a sudden that I didn't want you to leave --

MARY: ---- I --- I -- guess I didn't want to go either -- Jerry.

JERRY: Then -- you'll stay?

MARY: Yes, Jerry.

JERRY: Gosh! Mary - that's great!

(FADEOUT)

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ANNOUNCER: Well -- now I guess we know which way the wind blows. -- May we again express our appreciation for the many hundreds of letters we have received from our listeners and for their many expressions of interest in the welfare of our forests. I want to read to you a statement made by Dean Samuel N. Spring of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. Referring to our public forests, he says: "A great deal can be accomplished if every person will consider that he is one of the owners. If this attitude of ownership is once acquired it will be perfectly natural for him to do whatever is reasonable to protect his wilderness properties. With right appreciation of proprietorship a person will think twice before he throws lighted matches or lighted cigarettes into the grass or bushes along the highway. He will be particular to build his campfire only on mineral soil near water and thoroughly soak the fire with water, at least twice, before he leaves it. Further, his pride of ownership create a desire to protect the forests in other practical ways. Thus, without additional cost to the taxpayer, every citizen will become a natural forest protector, appreciating keenly his personal interest in the great forestproperty which is being developed by him, for his family, his friends, and for posterity. To acquire this sense of responsibility with regard to the forests is one of the most effective economy measures; it will reduce the cost of protection and aid the growth of the forests effectively". ---

"Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" comes to you each week as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

pmp - 1:00 P. M.
September 25, 1933.

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